

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-15 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

TAR-02 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 DRC-01

/189 W

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R 281715Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5805

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 5570

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE REQUEST FOR ABOLITION OF DUTIES

ON COCONUT OIL

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 5535

B) GENEVA 3011

C) EC BRUSSELS A-208, 1973

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINE MISSION HAVE
APPROACHED THE MISSION, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR,
TO EXPRESS THEIR HOPE THAT THE US COULD JOIN JAPAN
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN REDUCING TO ZERO
DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF COCONUT OIL FROM LESS DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES.

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2. THE PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAD ASSURED THEM THAT SHOULD THE US AND JAPAN BE WILLING TO REDUCE THE DUTY TO ZERO THE EC COMMISSION WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE A SIMILAR RECOMMENDATION TO THE EC COUNCIL. (COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE NOW CONFIRMED THIS ACCOUNT--REF A.)

3. PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT A CURRENT LARGE INCREASE IN PHILIPPINE OIL PRESSING CAPACITY MADE IT URGENT THAT THE PHILIPPINES BE ABLE TO EXPORT THEIR COCONUT OIL TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITHOUT TARIFF IMPEDIMENTS. THEY MENTIONED THAT THE US MIGHT TAKE THIS ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAUREL-LANGLEY NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MISSION OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT YET HAVE TARIFF CUTTING AUTHORITY, THAT WE CANNOT IMPLEMENT OUR GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCE SCHEME UNTIL LEGISLATION PASSES, THAT THE US HAS NOT YET FIRMLY DECIDED ITS GSP COMMODITY COVERAGE AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT THIS MISSION WOULD BE THE LOCUS FOR OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES ON THESE POINTS. WE DID HOWEVER OUTLINE THE US PROPOSAL FOR A SECTOR GROUP DISCUSSION OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN THE MTN (REFTEL B). WE TOLD THE PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVES THAT WE WOULD RELAY THEIR IDEAS TO WASHINGTON AND INFORM THEM OF ANY REACTION WE MIGHT RECEIVE. HARTMAN

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